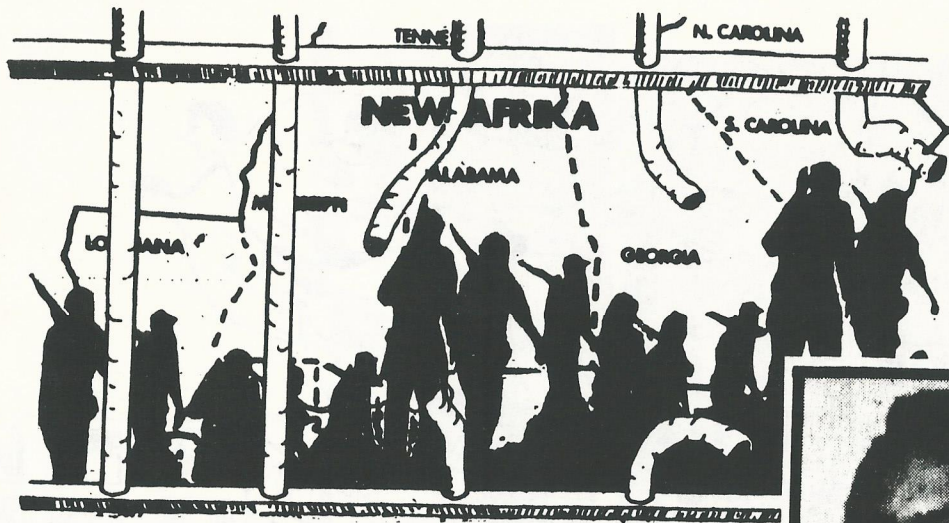
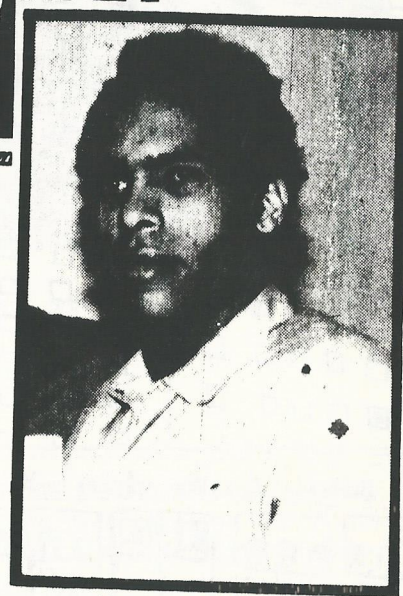




your honor
 since i've been convicted of murder
 and have taken the time to digest
 just what that means
 after noting what it means to my family
 and how it affects people who read the newspapers
 and all
 i see now, that i've made an awful mistake!
 and didn't approach this matter of a trial
 in a respectful, deliberate or thoughtful manner
 didn't take advantage of the best legal advice
 and based my actions on irrelevant matters
 which i can see now in a much more sober mind
 had nothing to do with this case
 i must have been legally insane thinking about:
 the twenty five murders of children in Atlanta since Wayne Williams capture
 the recent murder of a man in boston by police
 the two recent murders of two in Chicago by police
 the shooting of the five year old little boy in suburban calif
 the lynchings in Alabama
 the mob murder of a transit worker in Brooklyn
 the murders of fourteen women in Boston
 feeling that this is evidence of something
 and that there must be a lesson in all this—i though murder was legal.

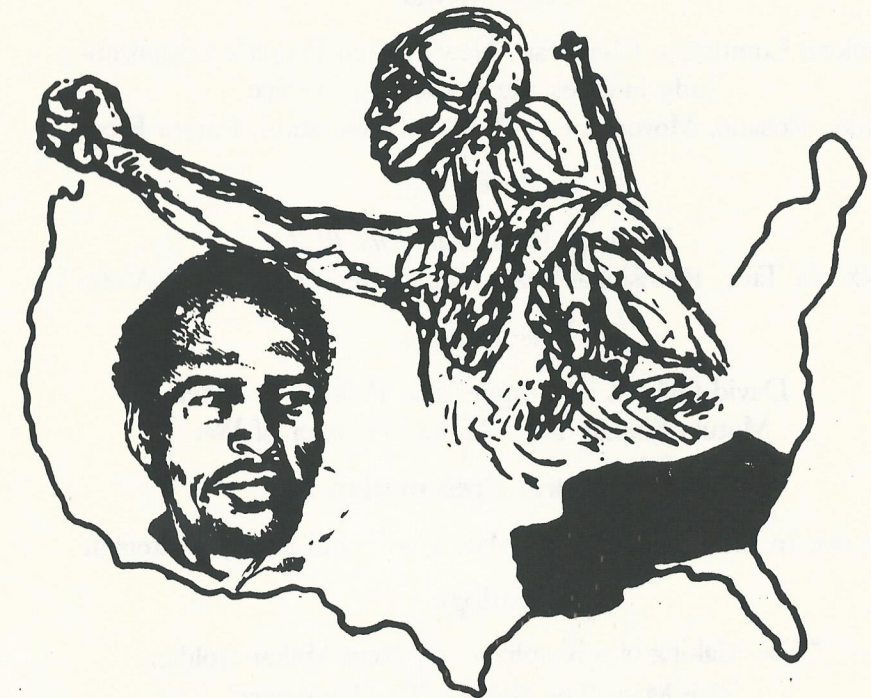


Kuwasi Balagoon

—Kuwasi Balagoon

A Soldier's Story

The Making of a Revolutionary New Afrikan Freedom Fighter



A MEMORIAL TRIBUTE

to

KUWASI BALAGOON

Revolutionary New Afrikan Freedom Fighter

Dec. 22, 1946 - Dec.13, 1986

December 21, 1986
 Harlem, New York

TRIBUTE TO KUWASI BALAGOON

Welcome and Freedom Fighter Libation

New Afrikan Youth: Sing "Righteous Soldiers"

Video—October 20, 1986 Interview of Kuwasi

Comments

Chokwe Lumumba, Chairman, New Afrikan People's Organization

Judy Holmes, Resistance Law Office

Julio Rosado, Movement for National Liberation, Puerto Rico

Poetry

Readings from *Soul of the BLA*

Nkechi Taifa, Provisional Government, Republic of New Afrika

Prison Notes

David Gilbert, Anti-Imperialist Political Prisoner

Mutulu Shakur, New Afrikan Prisoner of War

Cultural Presentation

"Love In Need of Love," by Marc Carrie and Kokayi Patterson

Eulogy

"The Making of a Revolutionary New Afrikan Soldier:

The Man, The Soldier, The Humanist"

Ahmed Obafemi, New Afrikan People's Organization

Commemoration from Auburn Prisoners

Remarks from Diane Weems Ligon, Kuwasi's Sister

Presentation of the New Afrikan Flag to Family

New Afrikan People's Organization Anthem

"Come Together Black People"

Honor Guards in Absentia

Sekou Odinga

Assata Shakur

Mutulu Shakur

Nehanda Abiodun

David Gilbert

Judy Clark

Abdul Majid

Bashir Hameed

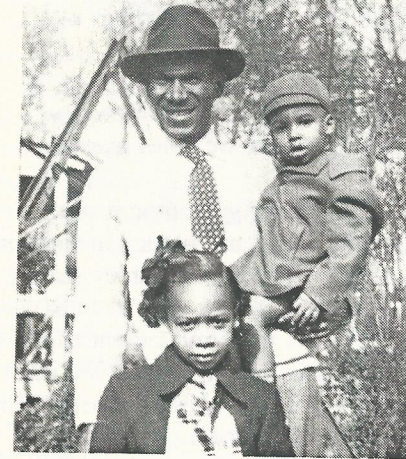
Silvia Baraldini

Marilyn Buck

Chui Ferguson

Black revolutionary soldier Kuwasi Balagoon died on Dec. 13 at the Erica County Medical Center in upstate New York. He had been moved there from the New York State penitentiary at Auburn where he was incarcerated for his political-military work in behalf of Black Liberation.

Balagoon was born Donald Weems on Dec. 22, 1946 in Lakeland, Maryland, the youngest of three children of Mary and James Weems. His parents and two sisters, Diane Weems Ligon and Mary Day Hollomand, still reside in Maryland. Kuwasi attended Fairmont Heights High School.



Kuwasi with his father and sister, Diane.

At 17, as an enlisted man in the U.S. Army, Kuwasi witnessed racism and discrimination in the treatment of Black soldiers. At this young age he began to realize that Black people had no reason to be fighting in Vietnam or anywhere else in behalf of a racist "Amerikkka" where Black people's survival remained threatened by capitalist economic policies and a white-dominated political system. He left the u.s. military and moved to New York where he became a tenant organizer and in 1968, a member of the Black Panther Party.

When the u.s. government's repression campaign against the Black Liberation Movement known as COINTELPRO took aim on the Black Panthers, he was among 21 men and women

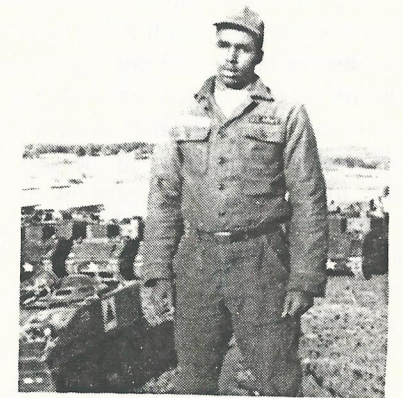
named in a federal conspiracy rap to bomb shopping centers and police stations. It was in the intense atmosphere of an 18-state alarm to pick up these 21 Panthers and vicious FBI and police attacks against Panthers throughout the empire, that Brother Kuwasi would elude arrest and go underground. All 21 defendants would be found not guilty on all counts. His latest arrest (he escaped from prison two times) would occur in Dec. 1981, when he was arrested and charged with participation in the Brink's armored car expropriation attempt of October of that year in Nyack, New York.

In the show-trial on charges arising from the Brink's action, Balagoon would uphold a Prisoner-of-War position and refused to participate in the trial. He openly acknowledged that he was a soldier in the New Afrikan Freedom Fighters Unit of the Black Liberation Army (BLA), a political-military clandestine organization formed in 1971 to defend Black people and to fight for Black people's liberation. This Unit is said to be responsible for the liberation of Assata Shakur.

Balagoon was also a contributing author of the book *Look for Me in the Whirlwind*, and has written many poems, short stories and political articles published in several Black, U.S. and Canadian journals and newspapers.

Balagoon was loved and respected by many as a dedicated fighter for freedom. His spirit will live in the people's struggle for a new and better world.

—New Afrikan People's Organization



Kuwasi in the army in Germany.

Statement to New Afrikan Freedom Fighters Day, 1983

Revolutionary Greetings Brothers and Sisters:

On the 3rd Anniversary of New Afrikan Freedom Fighters Day i'd like to extend my feelings of comradeship and optimism.

That the Government of the United States or any government has the right to control the lives of New Afrikan People is absurd and has no basis in principled reason or justice or common decency. Only New Afrikan people should govern New Afrikan people, in the manner that we collectively as a people deem correct.

This being so and that on top of forcing us to live as a colonialized people, the government of the United States has been and is practicing genocide against us, it is our right, duty and natural inclination to defend ourselves and provide for the safety and well being of our people. As Marcus Garvey stated, We cannot leave the fate of our people to chance.

The necessity of building a people's army to carry out armed struggle and a mass movement to build the infrastructure for the superceding society must be explained to the masses of our people. We must organize this, our army and our total revolution along principled lines that will deliver us as a people to land ample enough to support our population in order to obtain our self-determination. It is either liberation and self-determination for us as a people or more colonial degradation and genocide. These are the choices.

If we choose to live, we must carry on a revolutionary struggle to completion, guard against corruption and liberalism in our ranks and be consistent in building not only the means of cutting ourselves free of America but of securing our survival and self-determination by building the superceding society to provide for the needs of our people. As a better organized, more politicized and security conscious approach must be developed in building our army, a more grassroots basic approach must be developed to deal not only with the political mobilization of the masses but the needs surrounding our day to day survival. We must build a revolutionary political platform and a universal network of survival programs, along with the army.

Imperialism must expand or die and even as the pigs escalate their military and political offensive, they have lost their grip increasingly throughout this world, despite their wolf tickets because the peoples of Cuba, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Libya, Angola, Tanzania, Vietnam, Cambodia, Nicaragua, Grenada and other lands have put their heads and hearts together, to devise no nonsense methods to drive the Americans out.

If we do the same, we will obtain the same results. In fact we will obtain greater results because our liberation would mean a greater decline to imperialism than any of the previous people's victory, and reaction would be weakened to a corresponding extent.

There is no way for us as a people or any of us individually to correspond our conditions to those we desire, we have NEVER known freedom—however we will know freedom. We will win.

Love, Power & Peace by Piece

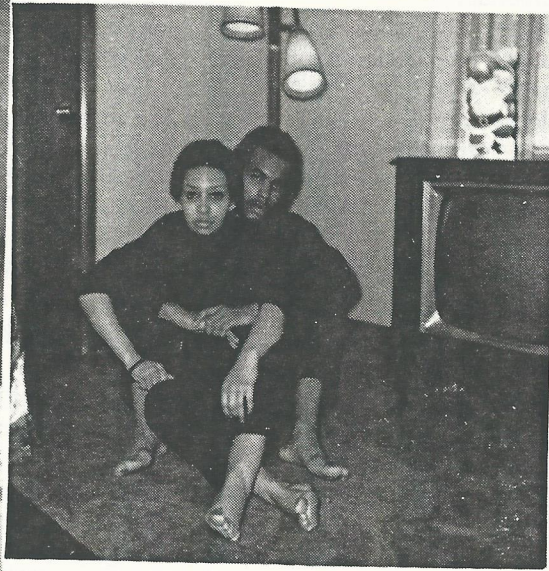
Kuwasi Balagoon

Benjamin Ward
Likes to entertain
and be entertained
on the rocks, in his office
likes to mix a little business with
pleasure
likes to loosen up
before he hurrahs the boys
at police ceremonies
with a few drinks
and mop his brow
and shift his weight from foot to foot
at press conferences
and stutter
and entertain everyone who watches
the news
This is no uncle tom
or some neo colonial fixture
of a city that suddenly found itself
third world
and unable to stomach a Minter or
Alvarez
as school chancellor
and as i picture him at the podium
i can't help but hear Michael Jackson
singing Ben
or maybe i only hear the recording
is it live or is it memorex?
the mayor, his honor no less, who
couldn't stand
Back Minter or Brown Alvarez
loves Black Ben
and saz, everybody makes mistakes
Ben saz, he'll never drink again
will cut the playboy routine
mops his brow, shifts his weight to
the right
he's asked, if he will resign
mops his brow, shifts his weight to
the left
"Not today," he musters a mumble
and his owner, looks at him, "Oh,
come on Ben"
and i can almost hear him say, he'll
never come again
his honor explains, these are just a
couple of indiscretions

BIG BEN
in an otherwise flawless career as
commissioner of
department of corrections, N.Y.C.
commisioner of department of
corrections New York State
and now as the city's Top Cop
police commissioner
This is no hand picked uncle tom
The first black police commissioner
of New York City
where more kids showed up to the
airport to meet
Menudo in 84,
then showed to meet the beatles in
64
was appointed!
This is the one responsible for the
Michael
Stewart investigation
This is the one resonsible for
bringing the
murderers of Willie Turks to justice
This is the one responsible for
investigating
police brutality charges in Harlem
This is a symbol of how far a black
man
can go in the United States.
A man mentioned in the Centurion!
making this video tape with his honor
like Michael Jackson did with Paul
McCartney
"say, say, say, what you want" how am
i doin?
Why are people complaining to koch
about the police?
This is 1984—not 1964
Why are people complaining about
racism?
ain't whites in Staten Island
complaining
about police brutality?
and Big Ben is checking into it
and being the top cop he knows
about
those things
how many times have you heard of

cops
blowin somebody away because the
cop thought
that the play gun the child had was real?
or that the comb or bottle or
whatever
made a bulge in a black teenagers
pocket was a gun or knife?
but black cops, like Big Ben
have better vision than white cops
I don't know if they do better on the
firing range
but when have you heard of a black
cop blowing a white child away
because
he thought the toy gun was real?
And how many times have you heard
of a black
cop mistaking a comb or
bottle or bulge in a white teenager's
pocket for a gun?
Is the ratio of these types of mistakes
the same as the ratio of black to
white
cops?
how many times have you heard of
white cops shooting black cops?
OK, how about the other way
around?
don't whites carry combs and bottles
or otherwise have bulges in their
pockets?
don't black cops accidently discharge
their weapons
So now you know who the guardian
society guards
cause niggers know the law
and the law is
If you are black you can't be white
and you can't be yourself
Other speakers have takened a nip
before addressing a convention
and entertained friends on business
hours
but what else does that nigger
apologize for?

—Kuwasi Balagoon

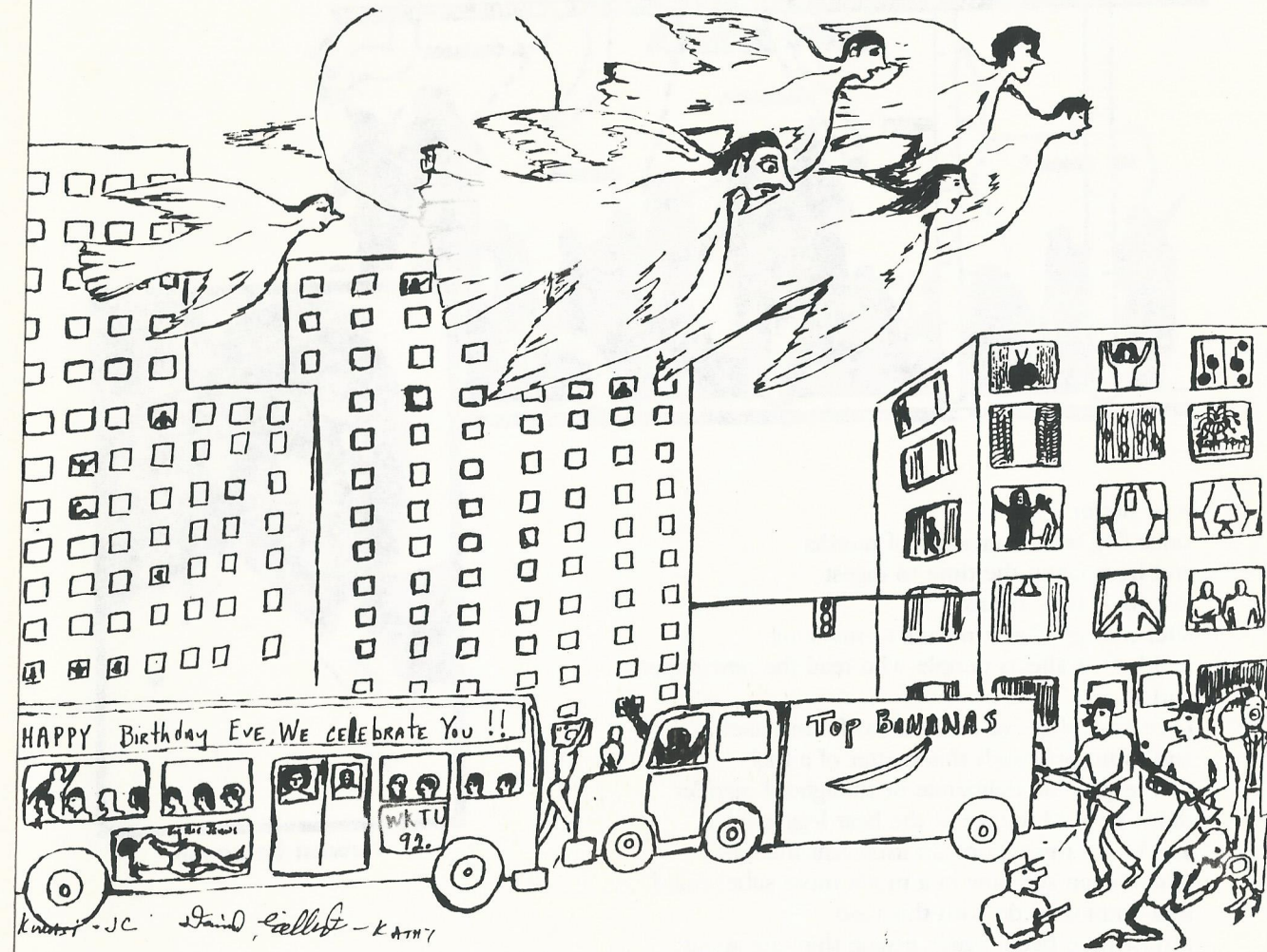


Kuwasi and his mother on his sixteenth birthday. Kuwasi with sister, Diane, prior to moving to New York in 1968.

"The U.S. doesn't intend to make fundamental changes, it intends to bully New Afrikans forever and maintain this colonial relationship based on coercion, or worse, a 'final solution.' This means that some New Afrikan soldiers like myself must make our stand clear and encourage New Afrikan people to prepare to defend themselves from genocide by the American nazis—study our mistakes; build a political program based on land and independence; a counterintelligence program to ferret out traitors like Tyrone Rison, Sam Brown and Peter Middleton and be ready to fight and fight and organize our people to resist on every level. My duty as a revolutionary in this matter is to tell the truth, disrespect this court and make it clear that the greatest consequence would be failing to step forward.

i have thrown my lot in with the revolution and only regret that due to personal shortcomings on my part, failure to accept collective responsibility, and bureaucratic, hierarchical tendencies within the BLA, i haven't been able to contribute as much as i should or build a better defense against my capture due to denial of fuse. i am confident that my comrades still at large will correct their thinking and practice through criticism/self-criticism and begin to strike consistent blows at the US imperialist. i wish i could inspire more people, especially New Afrikan people, to take the road to liberation, and adequately express my contempt for the US ruling class and its government. Other than that, i have nothing else to say."

—Kuwasi Balagoon, from his opening of the Brinks trial



DRAWING by KUWASI BALAGOON